

**T The Lopy of the  
commaundement  
Generall by the  
Abbot of euyll  
profytes.**







Maduylted for fault of reason and  
discrecion, by the Emperour of al  
euill grace and mischief, Kyng  
of lewde gouernaunce & necessi-  
tie, Duke of foly and negligence,  
Countie of beggery and lechery, Prynce of  
peryll and payne, Marques of daunger and  
disloialtie, Baron of espyes in forrestes, hygh  
wayes, & other places murderous, And chief  
Capitayn of all cauldelty & deceipt.

Salutacion.

**A**ll and euery our subiectes of our  
vncredable & cursed nacion, vnlucky,  
lously, vnfortunable, vnwyttty, baudy beg-  
gers, hedge creepers, falsifiers of lettres and  
seales, contrefaylers of saltes, coyners of mo-  
ney, lyers, mockers, stasse trayners, stelynge  
pardoners, purse pyckers, pyke lockes, berers  
of fals relikes & seales, heritikes, charmours,  
sozpers, and other suche lyke keepers of fami-  
liar spirites, theues murderers, enpoysoners,  
cutte purses, chyche theues, maynteyners of  
tydynges and lyes, tellers of tales, pykers of  
males, flaterers, draw latches, and other of  
suche and lyke ordre: As tothdrawers, trya-  
clours, leches, glottons, swerers, scalde scoz-  
uy scabbed hedes / synkyng knaues, baudes,  
ruffians, hazarders, hozemongers, hoyle coz-  
lers, carders, dyers, preestes hoies, blasphe-  
mours, sozswerers, blurers, trayters, & other  
suche lyke / as fals flaterynge fryers / loude  
lously lyers / soles, fantastrykes, and surpouse



people, marchauntes, monkes, channons, led-  
lers in bayne, hangmen, fleers of hoyses, ga-  
lowclappers, vacaboundes, beters of father  
and mother, gloutes and glotons, and to all  
other such our vnnoble subiectes and liege  
men inhabytyng within this our noble re-  
alme & yle of knauey, & to al other our sub-  
iectes inhabityng within coznors, cotages,  
baudy styngyng lanes & aleys, & other such  
like, beyng vnfortunate to be hanged, scour-  
ged, burned, or drowned, and to eche of them  
after theyr meryt or degre, Be it knowen to  
your weake wyt and vnderstandyng, that  
after the disposicion of the wedder, and the  
Jugement pronosticate by our maladuxpled  
Astrologians, so wyle instructe and experte,  
that oft tymes they know nat what day it is  
whan they ryle, nor what houre it is whan  
they go to bed, and after the constellation of  
one of the seuen planets, which is vnknowen  
whiche of them it may be: haue sayd & affyr-  
med vpon payn of theyr cursed & meschaunt  
spues (which peraduenture shall be bryef vn-  
to them of theyr great dishonour and shame)  
that about the begynnyng of the moneth of  
May about mydnyght, shall be vppon vs an  
Eclipse of the sonne. By occasion wherof, in  
the somer ensuyng may engendre, breed, and  
encrease amonge vs many & greate multy-  
tude of dyuers small & lytle beestes & besty-  
lons, whose names amonge vs & you be nat  
vnknowen, and be called maternally Lycs,

**F**lees, and nryttes / whiche beestes so named  
as we be aduysed shall breed, encrease, and  
grow amonge vs in great nombze and mul-  
titude / and also with them shall breed and  
increase other bestes and woymes / but nat  
so nygh eniopyngge vs. As flyes, flyeng har-  
ies, hoznets, betles, pylmets, and other suche  
lytle woymes oz beestes / which lytle beestes  
oz woymes shall bere no daunger of venym.

**A**lso with these lytle beestes after the con-  
stellacyon before specyfyed, shall encrease an  
other sorte oz maner of beestes which shall  
wyl be preiudiciall and hurtefull to you, yf  
stronge defence be nat had to the contrary:  
As waspes, lezardes, todes, serpetes, adders,  
& snakes, & other lyke venymous beestes.

**T**herfore leyngge and consyderynge these  
occasyons afoze pronosticate: we straitely  
commaunde vpon payne of the punysshment  
of the bestes afozsayd, as lyce, flees, & nryttes,  
eche of you our sayd subiectes aswell men as  
women, that ye may prouyde haboundaunce  
and nat ouer measure / for we fynde by the  
wyle instructyon of our vnerpert Astrolo-  
gians and Pronosticators afozsayd, that  
by occasyon of this constellation aboue, may  
be withdrawen out of you our naturall sub-  
iectes and people, all helthe and good natu-  
rall dyspolicion / from the which as we trust  
our lord shall preferue you. For yf ye conty-  
nue styll as ye be, as one fyndeth you, so shall  
he leue you, neuer to thypue.

**¶** Furthermoze our vnwole Astrologians  
and Monasticatours aboue reherled. playn-  
ly do say and asseyre me, that yf these lytle wo-  
mes and bestes afoze sayd, as lyce, flees, and  
nyttes, be and may inhabyt, encrease, & breed  
amonge you and in your araye, as doublets,  
shyrtes, hosen, & suche other your garmentes,  
and therein well fedde, lodged, and kepte, in  
great multytude and quantytie innumera-  
ble, that that shall be vnto you as good as yf  
ye toke euery daye a purgacion or lettynge  
of blood / for they wyll eate and withdraue  
all your good blood from you, and non shall  
remayne but the bad / of the whiche myght  
grow great inconuenience in hurtyng your  
cozpozall helthe in dyuers maners / as trou-  
celynge of your skynnes, small scrapes and  
scratchynges / scalde scozuy and scabbed he-  
des, & other semblables, as styntyng odours,  
impostumes, and other wheles, carnels, and  
cancres / and all suche other and lyke aduen-  
tures, as moche now as herafter / as we hope  
that sodeynly shall fall vpon you the constel-  
lacyn afoze reherled.

**¶** Wherefoze seynge and consyderynge these  
occalys, wherof as we perceyue ye haue no  
care, as of your honoz, helth, & other goodnes  
to you conuenient; we wyll and commaunde  
vpon the payne afoz sayd, that eche of you / as  
well men as women behaue them selfe to  
prouyde in the way and maner afoz sayd, or  
els the weke shall bete the stronge.



**A**nd also be it prouyded, that yf chaunced  
ye coulde nat ynhabyt a lodge all these lytle  
beestes befoze specified within all your gar-  
mentes, as hose, shyrtes, doublets, hedes, and  
cotes, we effectually ordeyne, establishe, and  
enact (and that vpon our great displeasure)  
that ye lodge and inhabyt them in maner of  
garnyson within your bedoes, houses, and  
in all other your dwelling places, in so great  
multytude and plenty, that they may put out  
your eyes, which we pray god may be.

**A**nd as concernynge the other beestes befoze  
named, as serpentis, adders, todes, lezardes,  
& other suche beyngs pzeiudiciall, in that case  
we wyll & commaunde that ye do after your  
fantastike folly & wyll, that is to saye, to take  
them or leue them, as it pleaseth you.

**A**lso we commaunde agayne vppon the  
paynes afoz sayd to you our subiectes specifi-  
ed, & to all other to whom this dignite belon-  
geth, that durynge the tyme, ye be nat so bolde  
to pare or cut your nayles as ye haue vled to  
do in tymes passed.

**A**nd we by our disordinate councell of folles  
idiots, lunatikes, fantastikes, & melancolous  
people, haue enacted these contemptes afoze-  
sayd to the contrary nat withstandynge.

**W**herfoze we commaunde vpon the paynes  
reherced, to all our hed officers, as comon beg-  
gers, vacabondes, stelynge pardoners, to the  
drawers, blynde harpers, berers of fals sea-  
les, outlawes, pylloz, knyghts, hedge creepers

and all and every our naturall officers so  
lopterynge and ronnyng over & in our lan-  
des, lordshippes, & contrees, that this present  
commaundement generall playnly may be  
cryed, & with hygh voice published & declared  
to man & woman, dog and cat, with great so-  
lemnitie, in suche purpote and effecte that  
may com in easely at theyr eases & conne fast  
out of theyr arles, which by lycklyhood may  
well be, & no man to the contrary withstan-  
dyng, for it pleasech vs so, & so is our wyll  
to be done.

**I**n presence and wytnesse of the lord and  
Capytayne of my lordes, the Brouost of en-  
prete, the Esquier Snyueler, Gautier & scab-  
bed, Philip the halter, & many other, as Ro-  
ger outlaw, Thomas pylloze, & suche other  
our officers of our noble Court testifiers.  
Fynnyshed in our Palais & Abbay enuyron-  
ned with all mischief, the .xl. day of August, &  
of our reigne. **Ad.**

**A**newly enprynted at London in South-  
warke by me Peter Treuerys.



